

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

February 18, 1977

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INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR: ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI

FROM: NORTH-SOUTH

SUBJECT: Evening Report

Daily Activities

(Hansen)

Spent most of the day discussing preparation of the PRM-8 "second track" with State and Treasury officials.

(Thornton)

Ambassador Elliot in Kabul wants to have the President send a special letter to President Daoud of Afghanistan assuring him of continued US concern for Afghanistan. I agreed with State that this is unnecessary at this time; Daoud has just gotten a letter from the President congratulating him on his (Daoud's) election. State is authorizing Elliot to reassure Daoud but not bring the President's name into it. We could always send a Presidential letter at some later time, but Afghanistan is lower on the list of potential recipients than are many other countries. We do have a substantive letter from King Birendra of Nepal, however, that is being staffed out in State and we will have to decide whether we want to respond to it. Perhaps we should have some general guidance as to which countries get what kind of letter and when.

I and others saw several candidates for the African job.

(Pastor)

1. Met with Harry Geyelin, President, and Otto Reich, Washington Representative, of the Council of the Americas, a business association representing 90 percent of U.S. corporations with investments in Latin America. Discussed a wide range of issues on the U.S.-Latin American

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agenda and the proposed visit of Geyelin and Council Board Chairman Marussi to Brazil in early March. (Will send MemCon shortly.)

2. Talked with U.S. Ambassador to Panama about "mini-disaster" which followed in the wake of a press conference given by half a dozen U.S. Congressmen in the Panama City airport.
3. Passed, pressed and pushed letters and cables to Venezuelan President Perez, General Torrijos, and President Lopez Portillo from President Carter.
4. Discussed the PRM-17 (Latin America) in advance of the State Department meeting on it tomorrow morning.
5. Met with Samuel Huntington to discuss the longer term and global view.
6. Met with Augusto Zimmerman, a Peruvian journalist who recently visited Cuba.

Significant Information/Intelligence

Here is a sample of opinion in the Hemisphere on the Carter Administration:

1. Venezuela: President Carlos Andres Perez said as a Latin American he was pleased with the change of Administration and was confident that the new American leadership would oppose dictatorships and human rights violations. But he warned that Washington's future relationship with Latin America depends on a "definitive solution" to the Panama Canal negotiations.
2. Argentina: Officials of the military government said privately they would have preferred the Ford-Kissinger Administration to continue because they believe it viewed military regimes in Latin America more as anti-communist bulwarks than as violators of human rights. But in Argentina and Paraguay, another military dictatorship, hundreds of political prisoners have been released since Carter took office, and this apparently was designed to impress the new U.S. Administration.
3. Peru: The left-of-center military government, a unique combination in Latin America, welcomed Carter's inauguration and expressed the hope that he would work toward a more equitable relationship between rich and poor nations.

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